LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing according to claims replaces all previous versions and listings in the present application.

Please cancel claims 25 - 39 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 - 39 (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A hybrid payload satellite for reducing a communication latency between a plurality of user terminals and a content provider, the hybrid payload satellite including an antenna having an uplink section and a downlink section, an uplink electronics unit, and connection resources, the hybrid payload satellite capable of handling a digital payload and an analog payload, the hybrid payload satellite comprising:

a forward payload section including a forward processing module and an forward amplifier, the forward payload section for handling the analog payload; and

a return payload section including a return processing module having an arbitration processor and a return amplifier, the return payload section for handling the digital payload,

wherein the arbitration processor is configured to:

intercept a request from one of the plurality of user terminals on the uplink section for access to a connection with the content provider; and

one of grant the intercepted request and deny the intercepted request based on the resources available for transmission to the content provider.

- 41. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the forward amplifier includes a forward traveling wave tube amplifier (TWTA) and the return amplifier includes a return TWTA.
- 42. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the arbitration processor is further configured to transmit a message to the plurality of user terminals granting or denying access to the connection resources.
- 43. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the arbitration processor is further configured to not acknowledge a collision between multiple requests from the plurality of user terminals.
- 44. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the arbitration processor includes a demand assigned multiple access (DAMA) processor and is further configured to distinguish a signal from noise in a DAMA channel associated with the connection resources using a pseudonoise (PN) sequence correlator.
- 45. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the arbitration processor includes a demand assigned multiple access (DAMA) processor and further includes a multichannel demodulator configured to recover and decode a DAMA request message.

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- 46. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 45, wherein the multichannel demodulator configured to generate a reply to the DAMA request message and multiplex the reply into a downlink signal.
- 47. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 45, wherein the multichannel demodulator configured to generates a special downlink signal for one of the plurality of user terminals making the DAMA request message.
- 48. (Previously Presented) The hybrid payload satellite according to claim 40, wherein the arbitration processor is configured to operate in accordance with one of a demand assigned multiple access (DAMA) protocol, an frequency division multiple access (FDMA) protocol, a time division multiple access (TDMA) protocol, a carrier detect multiple access (CDMA) protocol, carrier sense multiple access/collision detection (CSMA/CD) protocol, and a hybrid protocol.